

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 /017 W

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P R 101250Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4183

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0194

BRADFORD FROM BECK (AMMAN; COMMERCE: SOCKS, SAD; HALE, GAGNE.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA

SUBJECT: U.S. RAILWAY MISSION

REF: AMMAN 07757

AS ADVANCEMEN FOR MISSION BELIEVE MISSION SCHEDULE SAUDI ARABIA TOO LONG FOR AMOUNT OF POTENTIAL BUSUNESS HERE. WOULD LIKE EXPLORE POSSIBILITY, SUBJECT WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE, OF MISSION USING CANCELLED TIME HERE FOR UNOFFICIAL MISSION STOP FORDAN ENROUTE DAMASCUS.

2. IF FEASIBLE, THIS WOULD PERMIT MISSION 1) TO MEET EMBASSY REQUEST FOR SOME MISSION PARTICIPATION FORDAN; 2) OFFER OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW PART OF HISTORIC HEDJAZ RAILWAY WHICH MAY EVENTUALLY RECEIVE NEW IMPETUS; 3) UTILIZE MARCH 7 AND 8 PERIOD WHICH LARGELY INOPERABLE IN DAMASCUS (FRIDAY FOLLOWED BY REPUBLIC DAY).

3. FORESEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD INDIVIDUAL MEMBER VISITS TO FORDAN AFTER TERMINATION MISSION SYRIA AS MISSION MEMBERS SELDOM WILLING PROCEED OTHER STOPS BECAUSE OF WEARINESS OR PRESSURE TO RETURN HOME OFFICES. FULL MISSION STOPOVER ONLY PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE.

4. MISSION COULD ARRIVE BEIRUT FROM RIYADH MARCH 19:55 AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PROCEED FOLLOWING MORNING VIA ME FLIGHT ARRIVING AMMAN 0755.

MISSION COULD STAY THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND PROCEED SATURDAY
DAMASCUS BY TRAIN OR CAR.

ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INDICATE:

A) WHETHER EMBASSY DESIRES INFORM
AL VISIT FULL MISSION (ASSUMING
WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE).

B) COULD HOTEL SPACE BE OBTAINED FOR THURSDAY AND FRIDAY.
(MISSION NOW CONSISTS OF NINE BUSINESSMEN AND COMMERCE MISSION
DIRECTOR).

C) SHOULD AMMAN-DAMASCUS TRAVEL BE VIA PLANE, TRAIN OR CAR AND
TRAIN OR CAR COST.

D) COULD POST PROVIDE LOW-COST RECEPTION (FINANCED BY MISSION)
AND SOME FREE TRANSPORTATION AS MISSION BUDGET MAY BE STRAINED
BY ADDITIONAL STOP.

E) WHAT TYPE OF PROGRAM WOULD EMBASSY RECOMMEND FOR ATTAINING
BEST BUSINESS RESULTS AND MAXIMUM ORIENTATION FORDAN'S RAILWAY
NEEDS.

F) IF TIME DOES NOT PERMIT OBTAINING FORDANIA VISAS STATESIDE,
COULD THEY BE OBTAINED DURING MISSION ORIENTATION BEIRUT FEBRUARY
20, 21.

5. PLEASE REPLY TO BECK BEIRUT, WHERE HE ARRIVES EVENING
FEBRUARY 12. IF LIMITEL IMPOSED, HOPE EMBASSY CAN INFORM BECK
OF REPLY AT PAM BEACH HOTEL, BEIRUT. IF AMMAN VISIT AGREED BY
ALL PARTIES BECK WOULD VISIT AMMAN FEBRUARY 17 FOR ONE DAY
ADVANCE WORK.

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